

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-4. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-4, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-4.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels previously filed claims without prejudice, and presents new claims 21-36 for examination. No new matter is being added by this Preliminary Amendment.

I. Amendments to the application

A substitute specification (both in redline version showing the changes and a clean version) is being submitted herewith. Amendments to the specification, which are being made via said substitute specification, include the addition of appropriate headings, typographical changes, and/or other changes to place the application in better condition for examination. The substitute specification enclosed herein contains no new matter.

Replacement sheets of drawings, having formalized Figures 1-4, are being submitted herewith for review and entry.

II. Information disclosure statement (IDS)

An IDS, form PTO-1449 having references listed therein, and copies of the non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith for consideration. An International Search Report (ISR) issued for the priority international application is also being submitted herewith.

In accordance with MPEP § 609, it is respectfully submitted that said enclosed ISR is believed to satisfy the requirements for submission of a concise explanation of relevance as to any reference in the enclosed IDS that is not in the English language.

III. Conclusion

It is believed that no additional claim fees are required for the newly added claims and for the IDS. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees

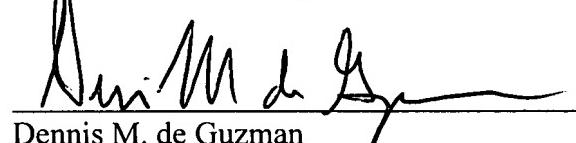
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Preliminary Amendment

that may be due by way of this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are believed to be allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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DMD:wt

Enclosures:

3 Sheets of Replacement Drawings (Figures 1-4)
Redlined Substitute Specification
Substitute Specification

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